

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1 and 3-4. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled, and claims 3 and 4, which previously depended on claim 2, have been amended to depend on claims 1 and 3, respectively. These claims have also been amended to improve their form or to remove reference numerals. The specification has been amended to correct clerical or grammatical errors as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The disclosure was objected to on the basis of certain informalities set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to correct these informalities which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objections on this basis.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have, inter

alia, canceled claim 2 and have amended claims 3 and 4 to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Frost U.S. Patent No. 5,135,087* in view of *Schwuger et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0016307* and *Bauer et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,267,912*.

Essentially the Examiner's position was that *Frost* discloses the synchronization device recited in the rejected claims, except for features which were considered disclosed by the secondary references to *Schwuger et al.* and *Bauer et al.*

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, Applicants' invention

provides a synchronization device for a change speed gear, including at least one cone clutch which includes a double cone ring which is freely rotatable relative to a hub between an inner friction ring and an outer synchronization ring which is axially displaceable relative to the friction ring and which includes a ring body with a stop gearing on the outer circumference and a friction surface on the inner circumference as well as radially inwardly facing drivers for the friction ring.

As recited in claim 1 as amended, the drivers are provided on a driver ring made of at least one sheet-metal pre-cut part which is joined to the ring body made of a sintered body. Between the driver ring and the ring body, radial gaps are distributed over the circumference.

In this way, Applicants' invention provides a synchronization device which facilitates the oil displacement between the friction ring and double cone or friction ring and synchronization ring on the side of the drivers by virtue of the radial gaps distributed over the circumference and leads to an

improved cooling through the oil flow between the gaps.

As recognized by the Examiner, the primary reference to *Frost* fails to disclose or suggest a synchronization device for a change speed gear wherein between the driver ring and the ring body radial gaps extend distributed over the circumference, with the radial gaps facilitating the oil transport. Although the Examiner has taken the position that *Schwuger et al.* discloses this feature, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position is unfounded. The connector noses 2a (tabs) of *Schwuger et al.* relied on by the Examiner as determining a gap width, it is respectfully submitted, are not comparable because these tabs 2a gear into recesses 6a of the driver ring in a form-locking manner in order to connect it rigidly with the base body. It is respectfully submitted that no radial gaps are present between the driver ring and the base body, as shown in the sectional views of FIGS. 3 to 5 of *Schwuger et al.*

The remaining reference to *Bauer et al.* has been considered but is believed to be no more relevant. *Bauer et al.* simply

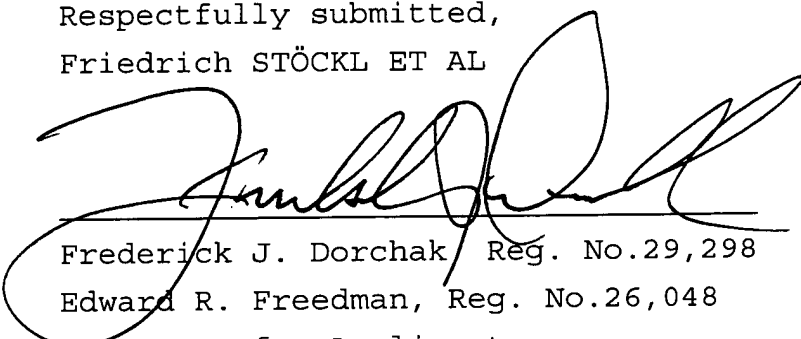
discloses a synchronizing ring wherein an annular body formed of a chip-free material, such as a metallic body of forged or sintered material or a plastic. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a synchronization device having the structure set forth in Applicants' claim 1 as amended wherein between the driver ring and the ring body are radial gaps distributed over the circumference.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, together with claims 3 and 4 which depend directly or indirectly thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. The specification has also been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Friedrich STÖCKL ET AL

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.  
1077 Northern Boulevard  
Roslyn, New York 11576  
(516) 365-9802



Frederick J. Dorchak Reg. No.29,298  
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No.26,048  
Attorneys for Applicants

FJD:cmm

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 2, 2009.



Amy Klein

R:\Patents\STOCKL ET AL-1 PCT\Amendment in Response to First OA.wpd